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JULY 14-27, 2011 | **ISSUE 421** | PRIDE IN PICTURES PART 2I, PETS

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Dean Engelmann (left) and Scott Endres from Tangletown Gardens. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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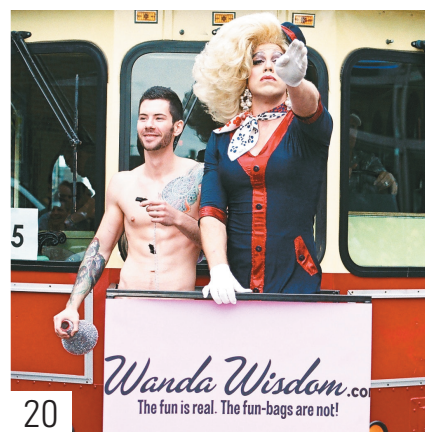


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Photo Courtesy of Animal Humane Society

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Volume 17, Issue 421 • July 14-27, 2011

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3715 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407
LavenderYellowPages.com
612-436-4660 office
877-515-9969 toll free
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612-436-4664 subscriptions
612-436-4660 distribution
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I ♥ New York

THE VENERABLE Empire State Building was aglow in rainbow lights the night of June 23, as New Yorkers celebrated the signing of the historic Marriage Equality Act.

New York became the sixth—and largest—state to enact same-sex marriage, following Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Iowa, and Vermont, along with the District of Columbia.

On June 26, tens of thousands of Manhattanites bearing rainbow flags and “Thank You Governor Cuomo” posters took to the streets for New York City’s Gay Pride Parade.

Much complex negotiation had taken place before four Republican senators joined all but one Democrat to pass the bill in the New York Senate.

The political implications of the law will be discussed in minute detail, but the immediate results were optimism and an outpouring of wedding plans.

Reverend Stephen H. Phelps, Senior Minister at Manhattan’s Riverside Church, was looking forward to replacing the commitment ceremonies performed there for years with something state-sanctioned.

“I think,” Phelps said, “it is an occasion for members of our society who have been burned by narrow-minded religion to see that it doesn’t have to be that way.”

Actor Neil Patrick Harris and partner David Burtka tweeted that they coproposed, and have worn rings for the past five years. They’re already a family, dads of twin sons Gideon and Harper.

Harris wrote that momentous night, “It PASSED! Marriage equality in NY!! Yes!! Progress!! Thank you everyone who worked so hard on this!! A historic night!”

I was reminded of Palm Springs on June 21, 2008, where I covered the city’s marriage celebration during the brief window within which 18,000 same-sex couples were allowed to marry—before Proposition 8 passed that November 4. Every same-sex couple with a wedding license who wished to participate could marry that evening.

I was moved by the joy and deep purpose of the partners. Typical was Thomas Van Etten, who exclaimed, “I’ve been partnered for 40 years with Robert Van Etten. I took his last name in 1975 to make a political statement about same-sex marriage.”

Now, New Yorkers will have a chance, like fellow straight citizens, to avail themselves of the right to marry the person they love, to create families and joined lives.

In time, this right will come to all Americans—Californians again...and Minnesotans. May it be sooner than later. □



Melissa Houghtaling

Rebecca Heltzer



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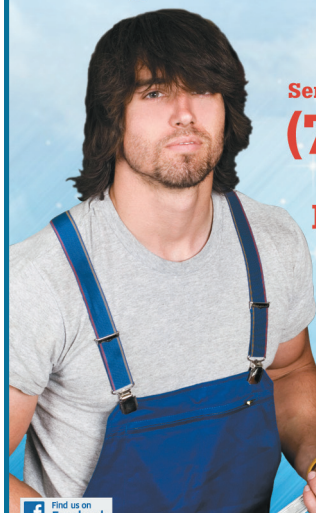
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It Takes a Village to Raise a Drag Queen

I IMAGINE the feeling I have following Pride each year is rather similar to the one felt by Santa Claus after Christmas: exhausted, gratified, and grateful to get the heck out of drag for a while.

This year was no different. It took me an entire week to recuperate, both mentally and physically. My feet still aren't talking to me. It also took me a week to stop waving and yelling "Happy Pride!" every time I entered a room. Still, I wouldn't trade being in the parade for all the cheap hair in Thailand. A drag queen just isn't a drag queen without a parade.

The feeling you get the first few moments your float turns onto Hennepin Avenue is pure, unadulterated magic. Whether or not the tens of thousands of people cheering and celebrating even know who you are, their effervescent joy is intoxicating. The entire experience is practically a blur, as you get lost in wave after wave of undulating adoration. At least that's how it plays out in my head.

Most importantly, it's safe to say I would have been just another man in a dress parading down Hennepin Avenue were it not for incredibly talented people like Robb Grier and Wayne Laberda. Additional big thanks to Matt, Adam, all my trolley tramps, Lavender,

Twin Cities Trolley, and The Firm. Their hard work and determination prove that it really does take a village to raise a drag queen! ▣



Wanda was the first and only drag queen in the history of Twin Cities Pride to hand out Fleet Naturals enemas to parade-goers.
Photo Courtesy of Michelle Trombetta



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IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW OUR HISTORY

THE MINNEAPOLIS GLBT-plus community's annual Pride Celebration just ended, and according to recent items in *Lavender*, it was a time to *party!*

In *Lavender's* Pride Edition (June 2), a column by Justin Jones, ("Sugar & Spice"), recounts a conversation among several 20somethings, as they discuss their plans for Pride: drink, dance, drink, meet new friends, drink, take pictures, drink. Notice a theme?

As I read his article, I felt a twinge of disappointment. Not with Justin. I have met Justin. He is a very nice and likeable young man. So, this is not a criticism of him.

Rather, my disappointment was with others from my generation and me. If Justin's column is an accurate portrayal—that most young GLBT individuals see Pride simply as our community's Mardi Gras, and just another opportunity to get wasted on a three-day binge—then my generation has failed to pass along the important and very rich historical context of the GLBT community.

Please don't misunderstand: I think it is entirely appropriate to publicly celebrate our successes, to identify ourselves to the larger community as a minority of consequence, to demonstrate our Pride in who we are, and to share the richness and diversity of our history and our community.

I also believe it begs the question: At least once a year, does the next generation understand where "Pride" Weekend comes from—what price was paid; what sacrifices were made by those before us?

Does the next generation know not just the story of the Stonewall Riots, but the

history that produced that seminal event?

Do they know about Harvey Milk, his incredible contributions and ultimate sacrifice to our political identity?

Do they know about Minnesota State Senator Alan Spear, the first openly gay elected politician in Minnesota (his coming out and election drew national attention in *The New York Times*)?

Do they understand the importance of and what's at stake in our civil rights agenda?

Even if one's personal priorities for our community do not include gay marriage, do they understand that the existing state statute and proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage are a gateway to broader issues?

Have we adequately passed along the knowledge that more than 500 state statutes in Minnesota law discriminate against GLBT individuals, and that these statutes serve only to separate and subordinate our community?

These statutes are a constant reminder that while we are assimilated in many ways in the larger community, that assimilation is still merely a tenuous tolerance.

Now, honestly, I am not a total bore. (I really can be fun at a party.) I believe in celebrating our successes, and in taking our enduring spirit and optimism to the streets. Like most of us, I enjoy and celebrate Pride with enthusiasm.

It may have been unwitting, but thank you, Justin, for reminding us that we should not forget our history. We need to pass along the stories, celebrate the significant accomplishments, wear our scars with dignity—and, yes, enjoy the "Pride."



VOLLEYBALL CLARIFICATION

First off, I want to thank Brian Cheese for mentioning the tennis and volleyball programs GLASS sponsors ("Sports," *Lavender*, June 16). It's good to get the word out to a wider audience.

I wanted to provide some additional information regarding the part of the column about volleyball. GLASS provides pickup volleyball nights year-round, not just fall and winter. We provide four different nights at three different skill levels: Monday Intermediate at MSC at the Midtown YWCA in Minneapolis, and three nights at Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis—Tuesday Beginner/Rec, Wednesday Advanced, and Thursday Intermediate. Wednesday Advanced is suspended during the summer.

The section regarding the GLBT volleyball league was substantially correct, except for the lead statement that there isn't one. The league mentioned that's run through City of Minneapolis (Park and Rec) is a GLBT league. □

BRIAN VANDERWAAL
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GLIMPSES

by George Holdgrafer



1

Hennes Art Company Debuts Identities Explored

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Photo Courtesy of Hennes Art Company



2

Stinson Is New OutFront Minnesota Organizing Director

In June, Christopher Stinson joined OutFront Minnesota as Organizing Director. He is proud of his seven years of experience integrating high-volume voter contact with issue organizing and leadership development. He is excited at the prospect of using the same-sex-marriage constitutional amendment to build a permanent proequality majority in Minnesota.

Christopher Stinson. Photo Courtesy of OutFront Minnesota

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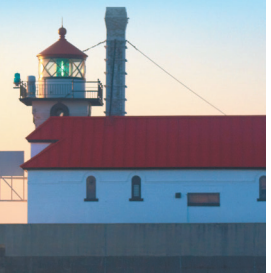
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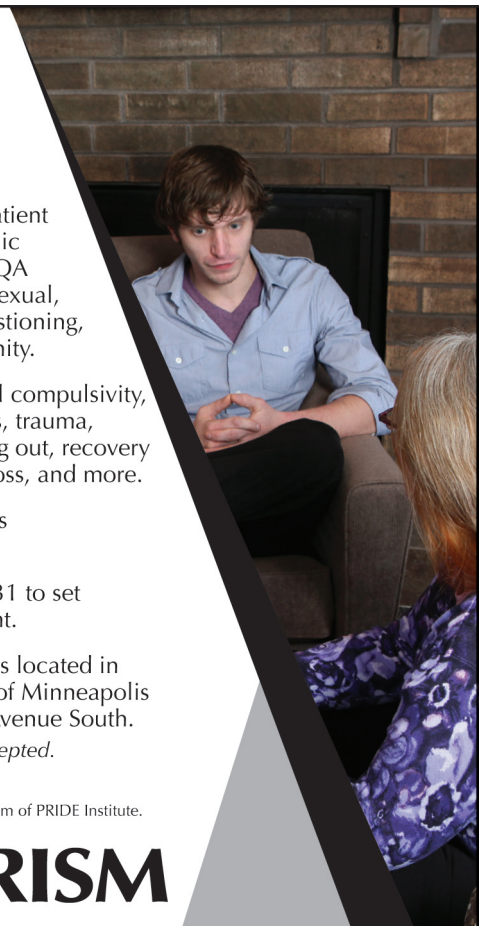
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TANGLETOWN GARDEN AND ART Tour Donates Proceeds to Various Beneficiaries



The Tangletown Gardens Seventh Annual Garden and Art Tour, with the theme “Discovering the Neighborhood,” will showcase contemporary and traditional art by dozens of the region’s finest artists installed for the day throughout a number of stellar private gardens in surrounding South Minneapolis neighborhoods.

As in previous years, Tangletown owners Scott Endres and Dean Engelmann will donate proceeds from the tour to help fund public art, charities, and garden projects throughout the Twin Cities area.

Endres says, “Past tours have funded the restoration of a magnificent bronze Japanese urn for the Minneapolis Park Board; horticulture scholarships through the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association; and garden partnerships with the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, The Museum of Russian Art, the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Park Board, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Department of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota.”

Looking to the future, Endres and Engelmann hope that these public gifts financed by Tangletown Gardens and the Tangletown Gardens Art and Garden Tours will serve as inspiration to many in the years to come.

Just a short walk from Tangletown is the home of Cordelia Anderson and George Humleker, creators of one of the tour’s superb gardens. A chat with Anderson revealed that a garden is a living, evolving entity.

“We’ve lived in the neighborhood for 25 years,” Anderson explained, “and over that time, the yard has changed as our lives and life styles have changed.

“Five years ago, after ranting on about living in this awful, cold climate and my wish to live on the water, we transformed the back yard yet again, from vegetable gardens and a

children’s play space to no grass, two ponds/waterfalls, and as many small trees and grasses as we could fit into a small space.

“Then, two years ago, we wanted to transform the front yard, so there would be no grass, and we could hear water from every room in the house. There are now a front yard stream/waterfall, and a rock water wall with benches situated so those passing by can pause, and have a moment of joy.”

Anderson continues, “I office out of the house, and my work is around prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation, so I like to think of the garden views and sounds as ‘Serenity in Chaos.’ The title also fits for being intentional about creating calm and joy within the hectic-ness of life. We couldn’t do much about the climate, but we are as close



Tour gardens and outdoor art galleries while enjoying wine, food and music

as we can get to experiencing the look and sounds of living on the water.

As Anderson enthuses, “We are proud and excited to be part of the Tangletown Garden and Art Tours. As participants in past years, we will miss the awe and inspiration from going on the tour ourselves, but are looking forward to sharing our gardens.”

“The tour’s ‘outdoor galleries,’” Endres explains, “will be curated by Merry Beck, Gallery 360; Cynde Randall, Swan Song Contemporary Arts; Ann Ruhr Pifer, Grand Hand Gallery; and Derrik Gagliardi, Tangle-



1 music. Photos by Hubert Bonnet

town Gardens—integrating paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, ceramics, and sculpture into the natural setting of each garden.”

Wine-tasting will take place in the gardens, while artists and host gardeners will be stationed at each site, available to answer questions, and to discuss their creative work. All artwork will be available for purchase.

You’ve immersed yourself in flowers and fine art, but it’s not over yet! Tickets include the eagerly anticipated evening celebration. Join the artists, gardeners, homeowners, and Tangletown Gardens team members at the

garden center for a celebratory reception.

Feast on delicious Tangletown Gardens-grown food supplied by its recently opened Wise Acre Eatery, and prepared by its culinary team. The wine is courtesy of Chuck Kinsky of Solo Vino. Refreshments will be enhanced by musical entertainment with a decidedly Latin edge, provided by Tambuca, with dancing on into the night.

Tickets, \$25 in advance or \$30 the day of the tour, are available through July 23 at the following locations: Tangletown Gardens, Tangletown’s Wise Acre Eatery, and Gallery

360 in Minneapolis; Grand Hand Gallery and Solo Vino in St. Paul; and Swan Song Contemporary Arts in Maiden Rock Wisconsin.

Tour maps can be picked up the day of the event, anytime after 9 AM, at Tangletown Gardens, 5353 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis.

Gardens are open 9 AM-4 PM, rain or shine. The wine tasting in the gardens runs Noon-4PM. The evening celebration at Tangletown Gardens begins at 7 PM.

View past Garden and Art Tour pictures at <www.tangletowngardens.com>. □



NO BULLIES IN MY GARDEN

NOT UNLIKE junior high school, the garden can be a breeding ground for bullies—plant bullies. If left unchecked, certain plants will take over, making it difficult for neighboring, less-vigorous plants to succeed. Here are a few tips to keep these more vigorous plants in check, while giving the slower-growing and dwarf plants their best chance at success.

Don't be afraid to prune back suspects throughout the season that seem to be growing a bit too fast, or that don't seem to understand the rules of cohabitation. Just like the playground, sometimes, bullies need to be put back into their place for the underdogs to succeed in life.

This constructive editing allows the slower-growing cultivars to catch up, while encouraging stronger, more-sustainable growth on the plants that get pruned back. Don't worry. This will hurt you more than it does the plants. It's the right thing to do.

Often, we don't realize the necessity of good nutrition for plants until it is too late. Even complete soil mixes with starter fertility will need additional fertilizer for optimum performance. While organic, water-soluble, and slow-release fertilizers each have their advantages, the most important thing to remember is the actual act of fertilizing.

How much? Follow the label directions. It's that simple. This is often that little shot in the arm the little guys need to keep up with the rest of the kids in their class. Container gardens and annual plantings benefit from a second slow-release fertilizer (we recommend an 18-18-8) application in July. Or use an organic water-soluble fertilizer (Daniel's seems to be the best) to give the plants a final boost to keep them nourished for the rest of the season.

If worse comes to worse, remember that the definition of a weed is a plant out of place. Sadly, on occasion, we must weed out plants that either aren't behaving or aren't perform-

ing up to your standard. Even though you may have paid good money for something, if it seems out of place, or in the wrong spot, move it, give it away, or if need be make a funeral procession for that plant dud to the compost pile. Don't be too upset about this, but rather look at it as an opportunity for something new to take its place.

Selective editing, pruning back, and careful fertility throughout the growing season are an easy way to keep plant bullies from overtaking others, as well as a way to monitor the success of your creations. Life is so much better when everyone gets along. □

Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and the recently opened Wise Acre Eatery on 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.

Photos Courtesy of Tangletown Gardens



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ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY LAUNCHES KINDEST CUT

THROUGH THE generous support of Twin Cities area donors, Animal Humane Society (AHS), in partnership with private-practice veterinarian Dr. Meghann Kruck, has launched Kindest Cut, a high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter program for pets of people in need.

According to AHS Relations/Marketing Manager Deb Balzer, two mobile surgeries will travel "directly to pet owners with limited incomes in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area that do not have the resources to sterilize their animals."

Balzer stresses, "Each pet owner has the ability to save the lives of other pets by simply ensuring their pet is not having unwanted litters. Spaying and neutering is one of the kindest things we can do for our pets."

Health benefits, Balzer adds, also include prevention of breast cancer and uterine infections in female dogs, and prevention of testicular cancer in males.

AHS and Kruck are reaching out to the public, working with social-service groups, community centers, rescue

groups, and old-fashioned networking to share information at community events such as the Twin Cities Pride Festival, Whiz Bang Days, and Rondo Days, as well as public service announcements and social media.

AHS CEO/President Janelle Dixon notes, "For more than a decade, Animal Humane Society has sterilized all cats, dogs, rabbits, and ferrets prior to adoption. Now, with Kindest Cut, we expect to be able to provide an additional 20,000 spay/neuter surgeries."

Kruck reassures, "It's a relatively simple surgery that can have a major impact on animal homelessness, saving countless animal lives."

Balzer invites, "If there is an area or community that would like us to come out, please feel free to contact us. With a mobile surgery unit, we can set up in a parking lot just about anywhere."

Reservations are required. For information, visit <www.kindestcutmn.org>, or call (763) 489-7729 (SPAY).



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ACCORDING TO Keith Miller, owner of Pampered Pooch Playground, a dog daycare and hotel, "Most owners look forward to Bubbly Paws, because you can use professional-grade equipment, but leave the mess with us."

A dog owner himself, Miller says, "We own a 5-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog named Roxy. She's like our little child. We love taking her everywhere we can!"

Miller, who eagerly shares doggy-friendly venues with his customers, points out, "Both our businesses are very active in the pet community, and giving back is part of our business model. Each month, we try to pick one rescue that we can help out."

"Our tubs fit any size dog," Miller explains. "We've seen everything from a 3-pound Chihuahua to a 170-pound Great Dane. In addition to the self-service washes, we have Jessica, our amazing groomer." □

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TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

TAYLOR CAMPIONE and Kelsi Culpepper, two lesbian women, have always felt at home in Minneapolis. While celebrating Campione's birthday at a Twins game, the couple was served a harsh reminder that not everyone is comfortable with their relationship.

The women were confronted by a Target Field security guard after they exchanged what Campione called a brief kiss. The guard scolded the women saying, "we don't play grab-ass in here" and to "adhere to the Ten Commandments" while at the stadium, Campione recalled.

They spoke to the security guard's manager and Campione said they were unsatisfied with how the manager handled the situation. The couple turned to the media to tell their story.

"We wanted people to know that this is a messed up situation," Campione explained. "I just want these attitudes to change. I want to be able to go out with my girlfriend."

The women have gotten many positive responses since the confrontation was first reported. They have received support via e-mail, Facebook messages, and phone calls from individuals and organizations, commending them on their effort to face intolerance head-on.

"The feedback has been very good and encouraging," Culpepper noted.

Although the incident was upsetting, the women explained, they hope this will help others come forward when they are discriminated against.

"People need to know that this stuff happens," Culpepper emphasized. "You need to speak up because the more people that speak up, the more people we have to make change and fight for acceptance."

"I would encourage anyone to do what we did," Campione added.

The couple considered filing a complaint



Taylor Campione and Kelsi Culpepper. Photo by Taylor Campione

with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, but decided against it after the Twins responded effectively to the situation, according to Campione.

"I think they have done a good job with it," Campione explained. "I don't care to pursue anything else."

Twins administrators met with the women June 22 to discuss the encounter and what could be done to prevent similar incidences, Campione said. The administrators apologized several times and offered tickets to make up for the night that she said was ruined by the guard's remarks.

"I could tell that their good intentions

were there, for sure," Culpepper clarified. "We left with a good feeling."

Campione said she urged the Twins to do a video for the "It Gets Better" Project. She mentioned Lavender's Out in the Stands event hosted by Target Field and said she hopes the Twins will continue to be leaders in the community.

"We want the Twins to continue to be something that people look up to and aspire to be like," Campione elaborated.

The confrontation happened during the Angels-Twins game May 27. The security guard was reprimanded, but continues to work at Target Field. ■

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GLBT-Inclusive Immigration Bill Reintroduced in US Senate

The Human Rights Campaign's *Back Story* reports that in June, a group of Democratic senators reintroduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2011, which includes the Uniting American Families Act (UAF). The bill would allow citizens and permanent residents to sponsor their same-sex partners. Currently, 26 other countries recognize same-sex couples.

Arkansas Paper Omits Partner from Gay Man's Obituary

Reuters reports that the Batesville *Daily Guard* newspaper in Arkansas is now considering changing its obituary policy after allegations that it discriminated against a local gay man. Terrence James said the paper omitted his name from

the obituary of his partner, John Millican. Oscar Jones, a spokesperson for the paper, said it has a policy of not listing names of unmarried partners, regardless of sexual orientation, in free obituaries. Jones said that since James's complaint, he has talked with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) about changing the newspaper's policy.

AT&T Defends GLAAD Donations

The Boston Herald reports that AT&T is denying that its \$50,000 donation to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) was meant to win the group's support for a proposed merger with T-Mobile. The controversy has led to the resignation of GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. GLAAD and several other organizations, including

NAACP, are being criticized for publicly supporting the AT&T/T-Mobile merger after receiving substantial financial contributions from the company.

Coming Out Most Beneficial in Supportive Environment

Psych Central reports on a new study that suggests coming out in a supportive environment has more emotional benefits than previously thought. The study was published in the journal *Social Psychology and Personality Science*. Nicole Legate, a doctoral student at the University of Rochester who led the study with Ryan and Netta Weinstein from the University of Essex in England, said it shows that "environment plays a huge role in determining when coming out actually makes you happier."

Republican Presidential Candidate Would "Respect" New York Same-Sex Marriage Law

According to the Huffington Post, former Utah Governor and Republican presidential candidate Jon Huntsman said in June that if he were elected President, he would respect the decision of states to legalize same-sex marriage if they chose to, and wouldn't seek to override those laws with a federal ban. The decision sets Huntsman apart from his fellow Republican presidential candidates.

New Jersey Senate President Regrets Abstaining from Same-Sex Marriage Vote

The *Lexington-Leader* reports that New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney announced publicly in June he felt his decision last year to withhold support for same-sex marriage legislation was the "biggest mistake" of his career. "I made a decision purely based on political calculation to not vote for marriage equality," Sweeney said. Advocates are expected to make a renewed push for same-sex marriage legislation in New Jersey this year.

WHO Urges Equal Access to HIV Services for Gay Men

The Associated Press reports that the World Health Organization (WHO) is urging world governments to help gay men get equal access to HIV-prevention and treatment services. Gottfried Hirnshall, Director of WHO's HIV Department, says that in some countries, 40 percent of gay and bisexual men are HIV-positive. He also urged governments to develop antidiscrimination laws.



Wisconsin Domestic Partnership Registry Ruled Constitutional

→ According to the Associated Press, a Wisconsin judge ruled in June that the state's domestic partnership registry does not violate Wisconsin's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser said in his ruling, "The state does not recognize domestic partnership in a way that even remotely resembles how the state recognizes marriage. Moreover, domestic partners have far fewer legal rights, duties, and liabilities in comparison to the legal rights, duties, and liabilities of spouses." Wisconsin Family Action, the socially conservative organization that brought the suit last year, says it will appeal the decision. □

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BRING UP SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AT A BARBECUE

Now that the Fleet-ing fun of another festive Pride has flown by (if you saw what my good friend, Wanda Wisdom, was handing out during the parade, you'd get the joke), the dog days of summer are well under way. You might be relaxing up north at the family cabin; heading off to some far-flung tropical island paradise; or maybe, like me, just sitting in the backyard with a tall glass of iced tea watching your tomatoes blossom.

In your warm and sunny respite, you'd be forgiven for forgetting that we in Minnesota are in the midst of fighting off a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. In fact, I'd be willing to bet that if you brought the topic up at your next summer barbecue, you'd likely get an ample helping of eye-rolls and hrumphs in response. Still, I hope you will bring it up. Bigots don't take a holiday, so why should we?

Same-sex marriage won a key victory in June when New York legalized it on the eve of Gay Pride. As I followed the issue online, I kept coming across reports that following New York's decision to legalize same-sex marriage, Minnesota now becomes the next battleground state.

As my good friend, Wanda Wisdom, put it, however, "I would just like to remind the media that Minnesota is not the next 'same-sex marriage showdown.' We're not fighting for equality. We're fighting for the status quo." Well put.

My fear is that the media, either through a profound misunderstanding of the issue or out of sheer intellectual laziness will fail to portray accurately the

question being put before Minnesota voters in 2012. Essentially, I'm afraid that the question "Do you want to write a same-sex marriage ban into the state constitution?" will instead become "Do you want to legalize same-sex marriage?"

This is not a debate about legalizing same-sex marriage. It's an attempt to discriminate further against gays and lesbians by eliminating any future possibility of full civil equality.

Proponents of the ban know this. It's in their interest to make this vote seem like a referendum on the issue of same-sex marriage, and deflect attention away from its true intention.

Our job is to counter this. Not only do we

need to make sure the public knows what this vote is really about, but also we must remain vigilant, and hold the media accountable when they misrepresent the issue.

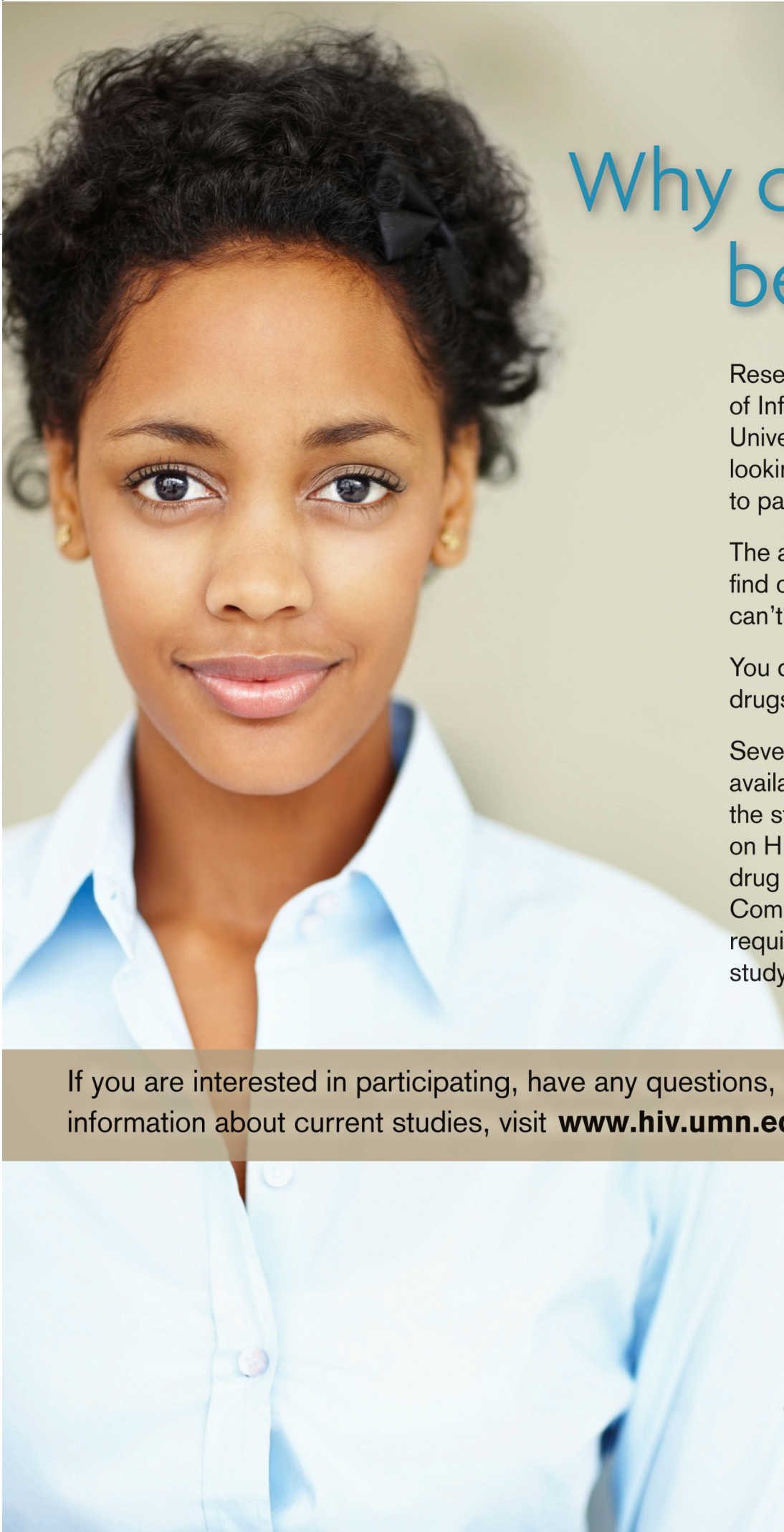
Although this long and, frankly, ridiculous battle has just begun, we've already won a key victory. You may remember from the last issue's column that the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board had agreed to look at the issue of disclosure and campaign contributions to ballot questions. Basically, does the public have the right to know who is funding campaign contributions to ballot questions?

In late June, the board adopted a resolution requiring full disclosure, thereby closing loopholes that, according to Common Cause Minnesota, "would have allowed millions of dollars of undisclosed contributions to flow to both sides of the marriage debate."

The only groups that opposed full disclosure were supporters of the same-sex marriage ban, which, as I said previously, kind of tells you what they think about the veracity of their arguments.

It may be a small victory in a long and uncertain war, but we can take some small pleasure in the knowledge that, at the very least, our opponents won't be able to hide behind a cloak of secrecy.

Now, get back to enjoying your summer—and keeping this issue alive, regardless of the looks you get from barbecue-goers. □



Why can't HIV be cured?

Researchers from the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Minnesota are looking for HIV+ and HIV- people to participate in research studies.

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You do not need to be on HIV drugs to qualify.

Several opportunities are available and depending upon the study, you may be started on HIV drugs or your current drug regimen may be adjusted. Compensation and time requirements vary based on the study for which you may qualify.

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Ex-Gays

PLAY SET IN CAMP STR8-N-ARROW SHARPLY SATIRIZES HOMOPHOBIC MIND-CONTROL METHODS.



Photos by Shira Levenson

Over the past few years, the junk science of the so-called ex-gay movement has gathered toxic steam. Fueling violent homophobia in Uganda and social-engineering exploits in the United States, it has become an insidious industry for “reparative” therapy, hack writers, and fake 12-step programs that treacherously mislabel homosexuality as an addiction to be recovered from.

Savage Umbrella Theater has been developing a play about such absurdities entitled *Ex-Gays*. What began as a two-person stage workshop coconceived and performed by Laura Leffler-McCabe and Eric F. Avery in April 2010 has transformed into a scathingly perceptive nine-actor ensemble project.

Leffler-McCabe, now the production’s director, says of its workshop roots, “Our concern at that point was adding a second man to the show, so that we could show the physicalization of Brian and Ricky’s attraction.”

That’s Pastor Brian (Carl Swanson), who along with Associate Pastor Kim (Sheila Regan) heads up Camp Str8-N-Arrow—visit <www.campstr8narrow.weebly.com>—where intern Ricky (Russ Dugger) is one of a group of “sinners” trying to “get fixed.” Imagine a struggling lesbian and a struggling gay man being coerced into an inherently unsustainable romance.

Avery now serves as playwright, with input from Leffler-Mc-



(standing, L to R) Rachel Nelson, Tanner Curl, Russ Dugger, Carl Atiya Swanson, Amber Davis (sitting, L to R) Sheila Regan, Eric F. Avery, Christina Lein

Cabe and a bright young cast that relishes exposing the perversity of ex-gay methods.

As Avery says, “In *Ex-Gays*, we get a glimpse of characters all trying their best to occupy space as a Christian, which seems in some ways to be more about how they are perceived than their own personal relationship with God.”

That said, playwright and director have no beef with Christianity in general.

Leffler-McCabe explains, “What we’re skewering is a certain percentage of the conservative movement that uses the trappings of Christianity to instill fear in people in order to get their way. When the leaders you follow are pushing and pulling at the truth, to bend it to their will, it’s impossible to know if you ‘have it’ or ‘don’t have it.’” When the truth shifts based on what your leader wants, there is

no way to know where you really stand.”

Swanson shares, “Brian’s trouble is that his particular brand of Christianity functions in such a way that it limits God’s love, that all-knowing and all-validating love, to a single mode of heterosexual functioning, backed up by specific readings of scripture.”

Regan adds, “Kim is a butch lesbian trying to be straight, so I have to create one character and her mask that shift back and forth between each other.” □

Ex-Gays

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9 to 5: The Musical. Photo by Joan Marcus

9 to 5: The Musical — The US Supreme Court recently refused to hear a case involving 1.5 million female Walmart workers. Based on the hilarious 1980 film classic about workplace misogyny, this musical grooves with the lyrics and Tony-nominated score by Dolly Parton. Ordway Producing Artistic Director James Rocco says, “Its issues are still potent. That’s why the musical is relevant. It brings a new generation to a funny and exaggerated story with issues that are still real.” **Through July 17 • Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington St., St. Paul • (651) 224-4222 • www.ordway.org**



Peligro.
Photo by Benjamin Fredrickson

Peligro — Curator Jaime Carrera says, “I want this entire show to really blow the audiences expectations out of the water.” Kats D. Fukasawa melds Butoh dance with bodily functions. Benjamin Frederickson, whose bio lists his sex-worker experience along with his Minneapolis College of Art and Design degree, will screen his never-before-seen Minneapolis videos. Dustin Maxwell will work with a rather unusual sex toy. Bad Boy Carrera, who recalls the early brazenness of John Waters, is far more daring. **July 22-23 • Patrick’s Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 721-3595 • www.patrickscabaret.org**

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum — In 1962, five years after he wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story*, timely Stephen Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics for this bawdy view of Ancient Rome. Based on various farces by Plautus (251-183 BC), it won the Best Musical Tony Award, and beckoned the 1960s Sexual Revolution, just as *West Side Story* beckoned the Civil Rights movement. John Command, a master director of musical comedy and hit shows, makes his Jungle debut as director of this musical. **Through July 31 • Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 822-7063 • www.jungletheater.org**



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.
Photo by Donna Kelly

Momentum: New Dance Works — Contemporary dance innovation takes flight! Kenna Cottman’s *Shared Language* blends Hip Hop with Backa Niang’s storytelling, mixed with elements of Senegalese saber dance. *Echo Park* reimagines two cultural phenomena: *Les Sylphides* without ballerina Margot Fonteyn, who performed it to accolades in 1963, and The Pips without Gladys Knight. Choreographer Chris Yon says, “I make dances like this as a way to telepathically correspond with heroes and peers. This dance is a transmission.” **Through July 23 • Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 340-1725 • www.southerntheater.org**



[THEATER]



Exposed. Courtesy of Walker Art Center

me in Act One, where Kaplan (John Middleton), the Jewish socialist, challenges the fear-based, anti-immigrant views of Maurant (Bob Malos) and the other neighbors. It's a great moment of civic engagement that sounds like it's lifted from a Sarah Palin Tea Party rally. Other moments look at social limitations on a personal level: Rose (Anna Sundberg) confesses to Sam (Logan Verdoorn) that 'it's not always so easy, being a girl—I often wish I were a man,' and goes on to articulate some very progressive ideas about women's life in 1929." **Runs July 7-30 • Minneapolis Theater Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 729-1071 • www.girlfridayproductions.com**

Street Scene — A generation before Elmer Rice wrote his 1929 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, laborers rose up against Gilded Age plutocrats. Standing on the shoulders of that progressive energy burst, he created a palpable sense of the social unrest percolating beneath the Roaring '20s. That discontent would, in turn, give way to the turbulent '30s. Indeed, Rice was one of those consequential artists who "read and wrote the writing on the walls."

Craig Johnson, a superb interpreter of 19th- and Early-20th-Century plays, reflects, "I directed Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* for Girl Friday Productions in 2007, and was drawn to *Street Scene* because it seemed like *Our Town* had grown up, moved to the city, and fallen on hard times. With those two plays and Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth* in 2009, Girl Friday is developing a pretty fascinating exploration of what it meant to be an American in the 20th Century—which, of course, means examining how we came to be who we are today."

Johnson adds, "The socioeconomic issues really spring to life for

[Film]



Topp Twins *Untouchable Girls*. Photo Courtesy of Argot Pictures

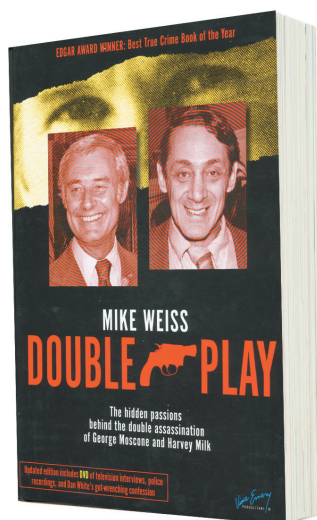
Topp Twins *Untouchable Girls* — To see just how two yodeling lesbian twin sisters essentially won over the population of their native New Zealand, *run* to see this astonishing documentary! Fresh-faced, wholesome, farm girls Jools and Lynda Topp are possibly the most popular comedy act below the equator. They sing their very own country songs, and improvise madcap New Zealander characters across gender lines. Whether playing middle-aged farmers or matronly camp counselors, they beguile and enchant. Issues of gay rights, Maori land rights, and nuclear perils are beautifully mixed with interviews with their parents, life partners, and former Prime Minister Helen Clark. **Opens July 15 • Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Ave., Mpls. (612) 825-6006. www.landmarktheatres.com**

[Dance]

Same-Sex Ballroom Dancing — You can still enroll in this vibrant program taught by Tropical Ballroom's James and Tricia Wood at Loring Theater. Loring Artistic Director Steve Barberio, who has been vigorously nurturing relationships with the neighborhood's large GLBT community, relates, "We created our Same-Sex Ballroom Dancing program as a way to bring people together on our stage with professional instructors to learn the basics of ballroom dance. But this is not just a ballroom dance class—participants will learn ballroom dancing, but also have a chance to demonstrate their skills for an invited audience of friends and families at the end of the program." **Through Aug. 2 • Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. • (612) 353-6781 • www.loringtheater.com**



James and Tricia Wood, Owners & Instructors of Tropical Ballroom
Photo by Portrait Innovations, Woodbury



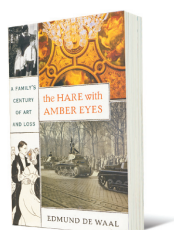
Double Play: The Hidden Passions Behind the Double Assassination of George Moscone and Harvey Milk

Mike Weiss

Originally published in 1984, this updated edition of Weiss's meticulously researched account of Dan White's killing of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk has been expanded. It now includes a DVD that offers interviews with Moscone, White, and future Mayor Dianne Feinstein, plus White giving his confession. It's written as a true-crime book, with conversations among the principals. Weiss, who covered the original trial for *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, weaves his narrative from literally hundreds of interviews, along with the perusal of thousands of pages of court records and depositions. White emerges as a severely damaged individual who had indeed premeditated the killings, and intended to take out two more victims.

Vince Emery Productions

\$39.95



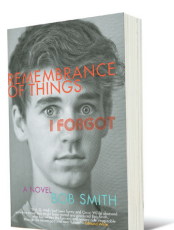
The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss

Edmund De Waal

Charles Ephrussi, member of a prestigious Jewish banking family of Paris and Vienna, collected netsuke during the 19th-Century Parisian mania for things Japanese. Ephrussi, a cousin of author De Waal's great-grandfather, Viktor, supported the Impressionists, and knew the Parisian art and literary world—Marcel Proust used him as a model for Charles Swann. Charles gave the netsuke to Viktor, in Vienna, as a wedding gift. After the Anschluss, the Nazis stole or destroyed the family's world and possessions. The netsuke survived through Anna, the family maid, who later restored them to the author's Granduncle Charles in Japan. He bequeathed them to De Waal, and they now reside in London. It's a family memoir as exquisitely wrought as the 264 netsuke treasures.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

\$26



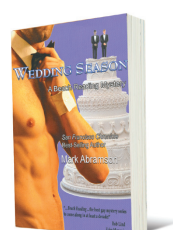
Remembrance of Things I Forgot

Bob Smith

Smith poses questions like: "Would I find me hot?"; and "Why is Dick Cheney pursuing me in 1986?" Protagonist John Sherkston laments, "It's safe to say your relationship is finished if the only way you can imagine solving your problems is by borrowing a time machine" (invented by the boyfriend you're planning to shed). It's 2006, but when John exits the time machine, he finds himself in the past, face-to-face with himself—"Junior"—and armed with the knowledge that their sister will kill herself with a gun and their father with alcohol. John, Junior, and preboyfriend Taylor set out to change those facts, and to keep George W. Bush from becoming President. Should appeal to all readers—save Cheney and Bush.

Terrace Books

\$26.95




Wedding Season: A Beach Reading Mystery

Mark Abramson

Summertime—and the reading is easy, especially with Abramson's fifth *Beach Reading* novel, featuring old friends Tim Snow; his hunky boyfriend, Nick; Tim's Aunt Ruth; and Tim's Mom. Wait! Tim's Mom isn't a friend—she appears in an opening nightmare bedeviling our hero, and, like an avenging Norn, permeates Tim's waking and sleeping thoughts throughout the novel. Reality TV harpy Rosa Rivera is keen to sponsor a gay wedding contest in Arturo and Artie's restaurant. Nick and Ruth's boyfriend, Sam, are talking marriage, and indeed, the whole world (the Castro) is rife with wedding bells, warm hearts, and cold feet. But keep an eye on the homeless lady wobbling through this idyllic tale: Why is Aunt Ruth so suspiciously solicitous?

Lethe Press

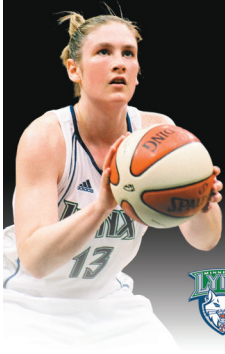

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OUT
ON THE TOWN

JULY



The Marvelous Wondrettes. Photo by Paul Nixdorf



West Side Story. Photo by Joan Marcus

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Young Artists Initiative presents "Little Shop of Horrors". July 14 – 24 • Performances at 7:30 PM, 2 PM on certain dates • Tickets \$10/adults, \$8/seniors and students under 18 • The Gremlin Theater, 2400 University Ave. W., St. Paul • For performance times, or more info, visit www.youngartistsmn.org

Red Ribbon Ride
July 14 – 17 • For more info or to register, visit www.redribbonride.org

Patrick's Cabaret presents Short Film Series, Curated by Arturo Miles. July 14 • 7 PM • Admission is FREE! • Live music by Fische and fantastic food brought you by Magic Bus Café start the evening at 7 PM, films begin at 8 PM • Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, call 612-724-6273 or visit www.patrickscabaret.org

Ordway Summer Dance Series – Ballroom. July 14 • 5:30 PM • Free admission • Landmark Plaza, downtown St. Paul • For more info, 651-224-4222 or visit www.ordway.org/summerdance/

Pride Bingo. July 15 • 1 – 3 PM • Downtown Rochester, Peace Plaza

Rochester PrideFest. July 15 – 18 • Rochester, MN • For more info, visit www.glcsmn.org

Northrop presents "Friday Night Live." July 15 • 7 – 9 PM • Northrop Plaza • For more info, call 612-625-6600 or visit www.northrop.umn.edu/event/summer-music-festival-northrop-2011

Minnesota Orchestra presents "The Gershwins: Here To Stay!" July 15 • 8 PM • Tickets \$19 – \$49 • Orchestra Hall, 11th & Marquette, Mpls • For more info, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Highland Fest. July 15 – 18 • For more info, visit www.highlandfest.com

Minneapolis Aquatennial. July 15 – 24 • www.aquatennial.com

The Summer of Superheroes: Free Outdoor Movies at Central Library
July 15 • "Batman" • Dusk (approx. 9:30 PM) • Free & open to the public • Central Library, Kellogg Boulevard Courtyard, 90 W. 4th St., St. Paul • For more info, call 651-222-3242 or email friends@thefriends.org

Cannon Falls Wine and Art Festival
July 16 – 17 • Wine tasting is \$20, Noon – 4 PM • Art Festival is free, 10 AM – 5 PM • Hannah's Bend Park, Cannon Falls, MN • For more info, call 651-492-5512.

Minnesota Orchestra presents "Beethoven's Ode To Joy!" July 16 • 2 PM and 8 PM • Tickets \$25 – 60 • Orchestra Hall, 11th & Marquette, Mpls • For more info, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

2nd Annual Lakefront Jazz and Blues Festival. July 16 • 1 – 10:30 PM • Tickets \$5 in advance, \$10 at gate, admission free for children under 18 and those over 65 • Lakefront Park, Prior Lake, MN • For tickets or more info, visit www.lakefrontjazz.com

Minnesota Lynx Home Game. July 16 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Storm • Target Center, Mpls • For tickets, visit www.wnba.com/lynx

OUT at Wrigley. July 17 • 1:20 PM • Tickets \$47.65 – 113.50 • Wrigley Field, Chicago, IL • For more info, visit www.outatwrigley.com

Minnesota Orchestra presents "Beethoven's Ode To Joy!" July 17 • 4 PM • Winona Middle School, Winona, MN • For ticket information, call 507-457-1715 • www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games. July 17 • Taft #1: 2:25 PM/Where My Pitches At! vs. X-Factor, 3:30 PM/Cedar Inn vs. Full Spectrum, 4:35 PM/Where My Pitches At! vs. Players, 5:40 PM/Players vs. Master Batters, 6:45 PM/BLUSH vs. Coale's Campers • Taft #2: 3:30 PM/The Hassle vs. OctoFusion, 4:35 PM/X-Factor vs. OctoFusion, 5:40 PM/Foxy Boxes In Sox vs. I'd Hit That, 6:45 PM/TC Kings vs. Sweet Nuggets • For more info, contact Schmell at nlwsl_schmell@comcast.net

Minnesota Orchestra presents "1964" The Tribute. July 17 • 7 PM • Tickets \$25 – \$40, VIP \$50 • Orchestra Hall, 11th & Marquette, Mpls • For more info, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Lavender's OUT in the Stands Pre-Party. July 17 • 4 – 7 PM • Park Tavern, St. Louis Park, MN • www.lavendermagazine.com/summerofpride

Northrop presents Movies and Music Series. July 20 • "Jurassic Park" • 7 – 8:30 PM concert, 9 PM movie • Northrop Plaza • For more info, call 612-625-6600 or visit www.northrop.umn.edu/event/summer-music-festival-northrop-2011

Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota presents 2011 Midwest SEIZURE SMART Conference. July 21 • 9 AM – 3 PM • Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center • For more info, visit www.efmn.org

Minnetonka Theatre presents "Anything Goes"

July 21, 22, 23, 29, 30 and Aug 5, 6 at 7:30 PM • July 31 at 4 PM • Aug 4 at 2 PM • Tickets \$17/adults, \$15/seniors, \$12/youth • Arts Center on 7, Main Stage, Minnetonka Theatre, Minnetonka High School Campus, 18285 Hwy 7, Minnetonka, MN • For more info or tickets, call 952-401-5898 or visit us at www.minnetonkatheatre.com

Minneapolis Institute of Arts: Third Thursday – Bike Night. July 21 • 6 – 9 PM • Outside, weather permitting • Free, refreshments for sale • Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls • www.artsmia.org

Ordway Summer Dance Series – Polka. July 21 • 5:30 PM • Free admission • Landmark Plaza, downtown St. Paul • For more info, 651-224-4222 or visit www.ordway.org/summerdance/

Minnesota Museum of Art – Patio Nights at City House Featuring Mr. Rowles and Band. July 22 • 7:30 – 9:30 PM • City House • For more info, call 651-797-4057 or email jkuppe@mmaa.org

The Summer of Superheroes: Free Outdoor Movies at Central Library. July 22 • "Unbreakable" • Dusk (approx. 9:30 PM) • Free & open to the public • Central Library, Kellogg Boulevard Courtyard, 90 W. 4th St., St. Paul • For more info, call 651-222-3242 or email friends@thefriends.org

Brave New Workshop presents "Obama Mia: or The Real Housewives of Abbottabad." July 22 – Oct 1 • Thurs 8 PM/\$26, Fri/8 PM/\$29, Sat/7PM/\$29, Sat/10 PM/\$27 • The Brave New Workshop Theatre, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls • For tickets, call 612-332-6620 or visit www.brave-newworkshop.com

CALENDAR



Tangletown Gardens Tour. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Minnesota Lynx. Photo by Sophia Hantz

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Minnesota Orchestra presents "Chamber Music With Andrew Litton". July 22 • 11 AM • Tickets \$20/Adults, \$12/Students ages 6 – 17 (recommended for ages 12+) • Orchestra Hall, 11th and Marquette, Mpls • For more info, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Atons 2011 Campout. July 22 – 24 • For questions, please contact activities@atons.net

Minnesota Orchestra presents "Magnificent Mozart". July 22 • 8 PM • Tickets \$19 – \$49 • Orchestra Hall, 11th and Marquette, Mpls • For more info, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Lavender's OUT in the Stands July 22 • 7:10 PM • Tickets \$35 • Minnesota Twins vs. Detroit Tigers • Target Field, Mpls • For more info, visit www.lavendermagazine.com/summerofpride

Pantages Theatre presents Steve Earle in Concert. July 23 • 8 PM • Tickets \$42.50 – \$52.50 • Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For more info, or tickets, call 1-800-982-2787 or visit www.hennepintheatretrust.org

Minnesota Orchestra presents "Opera Finale: Der Rosenkavalier In Concert". July 23 • 7:30 PM • Tickets \$25 – \$60 • Orchestra Hall, 11th and Marquette, Mpls • For more info, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Tangletown Garden Tour. July 23 • 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM • Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of and are available at Tangletown Gardens • For more info or tickets, visit www.tangletowngardens.com

Gay Day at Valleyfair. July 23 • Valleyfair, Shakopee, MN • For more info, visit www.pridealive.org

Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games. July 24 • Taft #1: 2:25 PM/I'd Hit That vs. TC Kings, 3:30 PM/Sweet Nuggets vs. I'd Hit That, 4:35 PM/OctoFusion vs. Master Batters, 5:40 PM/BLUSH vs. Master Batters, 6:45 PM/BLUSH vs. The Hassle • Taft #2: 2:25 PM/X-Factor vs. Where My Pitches At!, 3:30 PM/Full Spectrum vs. TC Kings, 4:35 PM/Cedar Inn vs. Sweet Nuggets, 5:40 PM/The Hassle vs. Players • For more info, contact Schmell at nl-wsl_schmell@comcast.net

(Tr)annual TYSN Community Potluck. July 24 • 3:00 – 7:00 PM • Powderhorn Park, Mpls • For more info, visit us at www.transyouthsupportnetwork.org

Chanhasen Lions 23rd Annual Golf Tournament. July 25 • 11 AM – Noon/Registration, 12:30 PM/ Shotgun Start, 5:30 PM/Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Raffle • 4 Person Scramble, \$95 per player • Island View Golf Club, Waconia, MN • For more info, visit www.chanlionsgolf.com

Minnesota Lynx Home Game July 26 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Sparks • Target Center, Mpls • For tickets or more info, visit www.wnba.com/lynx

Circus Juventas presents "GRIMM – Happily Ever After!". July 28 – Aug 14 • Tickets \$13.50 – \$27.50 • Circus Juventas Big Top, 1270 Montreuil Ave., St. Paul • For performance dates/times as well as more info or tickets, call 612-343-3390 or 651-699-8229 • www.circusjuventas.org

Z Puppets Rosenschnoz presents "Monkey Mind Pirates – The Musical". July 25 and 30 • Friday at 7 PM, Saturday at 11 AM • Tickets \$7, kids under age 2 free • Capri Theater, 2027 W. Broadway, Mpls • www.zpuppets.org

Ordway Summer Dance Series – Irish. July 28 • 5:30 PM • Free admission • Landmark Plaza, downtown St. Paul • For more info, 651-224-4222 or visit www.ordway.org/summerdance/

ONGOING

Hennepin Theatre Trust presents West Side Story. Through July 17 • Tues – Thurs at 7:30 PM, Fri at 8 PM, Sat at 2 and 8 PM, Sun at 1 and 6:30 PM • Tickets \$28 – \$83 • Orpheum Theatre, Downtown Mpls • For more info or tickets, visit www.hennepintheatretrust.org

X Y and Z Gallery presents "Mass Portrait: New Work by Anna Tsantir and Daniel Luedtke" Through July 23 • X Y and Z Gallery, 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, visit www.thexyzand.com

Plymouth Playhouse presents "The Marvelous Wondrettes". Through July 24 • Plymouth Playhouse, 2705 Annapolis Lane N., Plymouth, MN • For more info, including ticket prices and dates/times of performances, call 763-553-1600 or visit www.plymouth-playhouse.com

The Jungle Theater presents "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Forum". Through July 24 • Tickets \$10 – \$35 • Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls • For performance times, call 612-822-7063 or visit www.jungletheater.com

Open Eye Theatre presents "Milly and Tillie". Through July 24 • Thurs/Fri/Sat at 7 PM, Sun at 4 PM • Reservations highly recommended, suggested donation of \$5/adult and \$1/children at door • Open Eye Theatre, 506 E. 24th St., Mpls • www.openeyetheatre.org

Metropolitan State University presents "Esperanza". Through July 28 • Reception on June 9 from 12:30 – 4:30 PM • Gallery hours vary • Metropolitan State University Gordon Parks Gallery, Library and Learning Center, 645 E. 7th St., St. Paul • For more info, call Erica at 651-793-1631 or at Erica.rasmusen@metrostate.edu

Rosalux Gallery presents "Head Dressed", Paintings by Toni Gallo. Through July 31 • Regular gallery hours are Fri/ 4–8 PM, Sat/2 – 6 PM, Sun/12 – 4 PM, with free admission • Rosalux Gallery, 1224 2nd St. N., Mpls • For more info, visit www.rosalux-gallery.com or www.tonigallo.com

Theatre In the Round Players present "The Fantasticks". July 8 – 31 • Tickets \$22 • Theatre In the Round Players, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls • For more info, tickets and performance times, call 612-333-3010 or visit www.theatreintheround.org

Dinner with the Tsars: Imperial Russian Porcelain. Through Aug 7 • The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave., Mpls • 612-821-9045 • www.tmora.org

Nina Bliese Gallery presents Nanci Yermakoff – Transparent Spaces. Through Sept 9 • Gallery hours Tues – Fri/Noon – 4 PM, or by appointment • Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls • For more info, call 612-332-2978 or visit www.ninabliesegallery.com

"Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art" Through Sept 15 • The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls • Hours are Mon – Fri 10 AM to 5 PM, Sat 10 AM – 4 PM and Sun 1 – 5 PM • Admission is \$7/Adults • www.tmora.org



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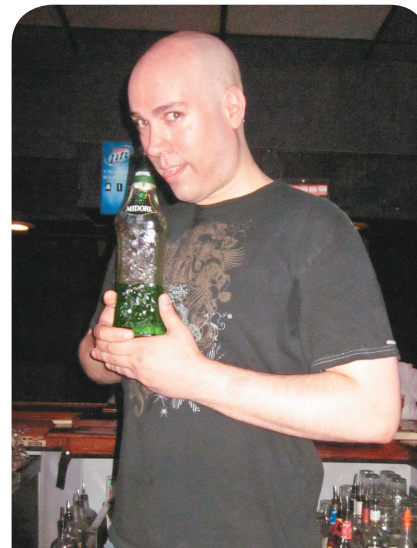
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WHAT**Recipe: Melon Madness**

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1/4 oz. Chambord
Combine Midori and Stoli
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WHEN

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WHY

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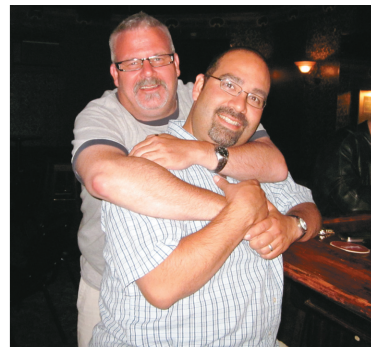


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TOWN HALL TAP

This neighborhood establishment offers a unique selection of excellent beer plus tasty standard pub fare.

Town Hall Tap in South Minneapolis has all the makings of a successful neighborhood pub: a cozy, masculine interior; a unique selection of beer brewed at its parent establishment, Town Hall Brewery; and a menu offering standard pub fare along with few unexpected twists. Even on a Monday night, the dining room is upbeat and energetic, filled with the happy, chaotic sounds of an imbibing crowd.

We started, suitably, with two beer flights: the House Sampler and the Seasonal Sampler. If you have never had the pleasure of a Town Tap beer, a flight of four makes for an excellent introduction. If you'd rather be bold, and make a commitment early, each beer is described *very* accurately, down to the smallest, thirst-quenching detail.

My advice is to take their word for it: If you don't want a hint of curry spices in your beer, don't order the Masala Mama. However, if you adore Indian food, and are in the mood for a wild ride, by all means proceed.

Table favorites that evening were the Wild Berry, which is aptly and absolutely bursting with zingy raspberries; the hardy American Wheat; the light and sweet Mai-bock; and the Parkway Java Porter.

The porter was so decadent, rich with coffee and chocolate, that my foodie friend and I agreed it was the only beer we could see legitimately served alongside a slice of New York cheesecake. Then again, we're both unrepentantly un-Kosher Jews, so take that last with a coarse grain of salt.

Tap Pork Wings (\$11.95) soon arrived (did I mention we don't keep kosher?), nestled on a bed of plump, perky French fries. The "wings" are actually bone-in pork shank doused in homemade barbeque sauce. A side of ranch is provided, and though that sounds like it could be a bit much, it actually works wonders as a secondary dipping sauce.

Both the Brie Curds (\$6.50) and Pickles (\$6.50) are treated similarly, in that they are beer-battered, fried, and served with black-berry jalapeño chutney, although the pickles are slathered with cream cheese before their dip in the deep fryer. The pickles are a little big to be bite-size, but a knife and fork may be required anyway to test the temperature of the first one—the outside breading is not a reliable indicator of the molten interior. The chutney is more fruity than spicy, so Minnesotans need not beware this hobbled jalapeño. The fit-for-foodies brie curds are smaller and more manageable, though the breading might have been improved if it were less thick. They were also quite enjoyable on their own, without the chutney.

We hemmed and hawed about what sandwiches to choose, but thought the Blockbuster (\$9.25) just seemed more interesting than the Cuban or the Reuben. Stuffed with



(Facing page, from left) Bar area; Two Beer Samplers. (This page, from above) Heidelberg; Brie Curds and Pickles. Photos by Hubert Bonnet



brisket, ham, and salami, the already-assertive sandwich also benefits from sautéed onions, pickled Serrano peppers, house mayo, melted provolone, and a little buttery-cheesy something fondly referred to as "tap sauce." I had to applaud the flavor combination, but this Jew found the brisket to be on the chewy side. Still, outside of Bewitched, Mort's, or Cecil's, it's hard to find a decent juicy brisket sandwich in this town, so I have to give the Blockbuster the praise it's due. If you're as fussy about your brisket as I am, plenty of other delights are on the menu.

The Heidelberg (\$9.50), for example, is like a little gift from the gods of meat. Surely, in all the pagan history of the world, there had to be at least one toga-wearing, bacon-scented deity, seated just to the right of Bacchus. He or she would likely smile upon the perfectly prepared Heidelberg, in which a half pound of Angus beef is stuffed with onions, and sprinkled with chopped bacon, before being topped with hot, gooey Tillamook

smoked cheddar cheese and house mayo. The Heidelberg isn't fancy-schmancy, and chances are you'll need an extra napkin or two, but it is because of circumstances precisely like these that it would be impossible for me to keep kosher. Perhaps my imaginary meat god/goddess will grant me dispensation for special occasions. He or she doesn't even have to grant that many. The Heidelberg may not redefine the burger, but it *does* redefine "filling."

All in all, Town Hall Tap is a welcome addition to the flourishing neighborhood. The attraction is primarily its beer list—which is as it should be—but the food offers sufficient reason to linger. ◻

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[OUT ON THE TOWN **FOOD BITES**]

[**PATIO DATING**] by Carla Waldemar

Who wants to eat inside in summer? Not me. And not a problem. Soon as the ice has left the sidewalk, outdoor tables take its place—and not a moment too soon. But we can do even better. To make the most of a long summer evening, opt for a proper patio. Some favorite options:



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BLACK FOREST INN
The Student Prince is alive and well, and hanging out in a German arbor. Under the grapevines, the Black Forest's tables are crammed with students (plus those whose student days are long gone), raising steins in faulty harmony. Word of warning: Those Teutonic portions spell disaster to your image in a Speedo.

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Namaste. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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Hi, I'm Pretentious

I WAS ON the rooftop of the Chambers the other day when someone approached my friend, AJ, and said, "Your friend, Justin, is pretentious."

Well ain't that lovely? I love when people I've never met say stuff like that. Isn't it ironic when they make such judgments? Think Pot-Kettle.

For the record, and this in itself is probably totally self-absorbed, I think I'm a nice guy. I never shy away from meeting new people (no matter who you are or what you look like), I smile at people when we make eye contact, and I do my damndest to make others feel welcomed into conversation.

I also happen to be terribly insecure, and addicted to building friendship. Combine all the above, and you get quite the mess.

Lately I'm feeling disturbed by what happened at the Chambers. It's not because someone dislikes me—I can handle that—but because someone dislikes me whom I've never really met. He's someone I would have otherwise loved to have gotten to know (he is a friend of a friend).

I think it's my hair.

No, seriously.

I was talking about this with Ty (my roommate) recently, and we laughed about it, but I think I should put the theory to the test.

I make my hair all spikey and hair-spray-ey when I'm going out on the town. Think Jersey Shore with only slightly less gel. (See my photo on page 66 of this issue). Most people like it. I enjoy wearing it that way. It makes me feel a little more confident.

My hair by no means conveys that I am a modest individual. It doesn't tell the story of how insecure I am, or how nice I am (okay, how nice I try to be). It *does* signal the stereotypical gay male youth, filled with conceit and narcissism—titles that I do not think describe me (fingers crossed). This is vanity, not pretense.

I find it very hard to believe anyone would call me pretentious if I just rolled out of bed, and my hair was busted, but just because I'm a nice guy shouldn't mean I have to have my hair a certain way. I like playing around with it. It's part of who I am.

Or maybe I *am* pretentious. Who knows? I'll go think about it in the tanning booth. □

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EASTCLIFF GARDEN PARTY



Eastcliff Mansion, prepared for a garden party. Photos by Sean Ryan

The official home of the President of the University of Minnesota has been the site of truly lovely parties for nearly 90 years. Eastcliff, the Georgian white-clapboard mansion overlooking the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, was built in 1922 by lumberman Edward Brooks. Donated to the University in 1958, it is the second presidential mansion in the university's 160-year history.

The mansion has seen its fair share of governors, presidents, and dignitaries. Currently, the stately home is the residence of outgoing President Robert Bruininks and his wife, Susan Hagstrum. In their nine years at Eastcliff, they have overseen a busy schedule of more than 150 parties and a staggering 8,000 visitors per year. Truly a

people's house, it is the venue for functions ranging from formal dinners with state officials to receptions for all graduating University students.

The home is maintained with state funds, but also supported through countless private gifts and fundraisers. The University of Minnesota Technical Advisory Commit-

tee oversees capital campaigns, while the Friends of Eastcliff, a board of private citizens and University officials, is charged with raising funds.

On a lovely sunny day in June, Friends of Eastcliff President Linda Cohen and Party Chair Kathy Beenan, along with their steering committee, oversaw one of Eastcliff's great seasonal parties: The Friends of Eastcliff Garden Party. The annual event is a chance for Friends members to mingle, and enjoy their fundraising efforts.

Stepping onto the terrace from the hall, guests at the garden party were greeted by a beautiful vista of white umbrellas, linens,

and a tent on the lawn.

Knowing how to handle crowds, the polished staff was able to make all guests feel comfortable through simple space arrangements. The main hallway in the home filtered guests in several directions, with some drawn to the iced tea and lemonade on the terrace, and others to a wine bar set up in the sun-room. The dining room at the north end of the home was set with an elegant buffet of finger-foods, presided over by a massive floral arrangement set in a great silver tureen.

Among the well-manicured gardens of maroon and gold University of Minnesota-grown plants, guests spoke of the wonderful additions to the landscape and the accomplishments of President Bruininks during his tenure.

Promptly at 4 p.m., the University of Minnesota Marching Band appeared from around the corner of the house, marching in time to old university favorites. As the band finished and guests returned to their seats, Linda Cohen, Chair of Friends of Eastcliff briefly introduced the guests and Susan Hagstrum, who said she and Bruininks were thankful for the time they'd been able to spend at Eastcliff. She told of an old burr oak tree on the grounds that had to be removed, but that now "lives on" in new furnishings in the home, crafted from its wood. Cohen presented a beautiful framed mirror made from the same tree to the couple as a gift of appreciation for their dedication to the residence.

The Brooks family, which had donated the residence to the University, also was thanked for their generosity. Since their donation of the residence, the children and grandchildren of Edwin Brooks have helped maintain the legacy of Eastcliff. A recent project they were involved in was the restoration of the Eastcliff miniature, a scaled down version of the home as it appeared in the 1940s. It was originally crafted, down to the finely woven miniature rugs, by Markel Brooks and Elsa Mannheimer. A fitting symbol for all the people involved in this wonderful home, the restoration of the miniature represents all that has been done to maintain and preserve the residence for the University of Minnesota for years to come.

At the close of the party, President Bruininks was invited to join the marching band. A well-schooled trumpet player, he jumped right in creating a memorable farewell to the party and his era as University of Minnesota President. ■



(Inset) Guests take in the U of M Marching Band; The elegant buffet with its flowers, cut from the gardens of Eastcliff.

THE PARTY

- **Invitations.** Since they were for a garden party, the invitations usually feature a bright floral photo. This year it was hydrangeas. Included with the party details was a list of all the Friends of Eastcliff members who had made the event possible. The invitation also advised "Please wear a hat!" a longstanding tradition not overlooked by the well-dressed guests.

- **Décor.** Eastcliff is decorated in muted tones (except for the gilded peacock bar in the front hall), forming a neutral background for fabulous floral arrangements created by Jim Bernier, a staff member. With the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum providing plants for the grounds, cutting from this garden reaps rewards. This year, huge peonies and gorgeous lupines graced the elegant rooms.

- **Menu.** Prepared by Gourmet Thyme with the support of University Dining Services, the menu featured finger foods including a goat cheese-topped cayenne shortbread cracker and savory antipasto platters. Desserts ranged from delicate lemon meringues to decadent chocolate brownies. Crystal carafes of iced tea and lemonade were offered on the terrace while wine, provided by event sponsor Big-Top Liquors was poured by staff members in the solarium.

- **Party Time.** As guests approached the home through the white picket gates, they were greeted by President Bruininks under the side porch, where they received a name badge. The beauty of Eastcliff is that it can handle crowds, so upon first entry, it is easy to move about. The beautifully planted terrace offered a perfect garden party backdrop. With the lovely weather, the event depended on outdoor seating and a tent for guests, provided by event sponsor Après Party Rental. As with the home's exterior, the furnishings were white-on-white-on-white, except for a bright gold stripe through the large frame tent.

- **Program.** Everyone loves a grand entrance, flashbulbs and prospects for the future. But what about goodbyes? Since it was President Bruininks and Susan Hagstrum's last garden party in the home, the entertainment was especially theatrical, including the marching band and Bruininks' own musical participation. Hail! Minnesota anyone?



RIGA, LATVIA

Another Baltic nation free of Soviet oppression offers tourists an awesome architectural treasury, including Art Nouveau.

DONE LONDON, Paris, Rome—the legendary capitals—and ready to see the “other” Europe, where Americans have yet to clog the streets? Heck, where you can’t even read the street signs? Me, too!

I headed for the Baltics, eager to stoke my senses on Medieval cities untouched as yet by Starbucks, plus piney countrysides where farmers cleave their land the way their granddads did, and wild swans drift among the waters.

First stop, Tallinn, capital of Estonia (see *Lavender*, June 30), a corner of real estate coveted for centuries by neighboring nations, eager to establish claim to this vital crossroad—thus, conquered most recently by Tsarist Russians, then Nazis, then Soviet Commies, and the first nation to free itself from Iron Curtain oppression in the early ’90s. Latvia followed suit, inspiring a similar, if not quite so percolating, renaissance. So I, too, continued south along the sea to Riga, its capital aside the Daugava River.

In fact, the first thing a visitor might do is cross that river to the left bank to capture one of Riga’s most alluring assets: its skyline view. The slender, Gothic church spires that pierce the sky serve as punctuation marks accenting the Old Town’s 800-year history, now preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

While Tallinn erected its worship houses of somber stone, here, they’re all built of bricks—a homey, down-to-business effect that inspires more familiarity than awe.

Amble into the Dome Cathedral of 1211, the largest Medieval church in the Baltics, anchoring the town’s main square, to encounter an antipathy, Lutheran interior, offset by a majestic organ, once the largest in Europe (free concerts almost daily).

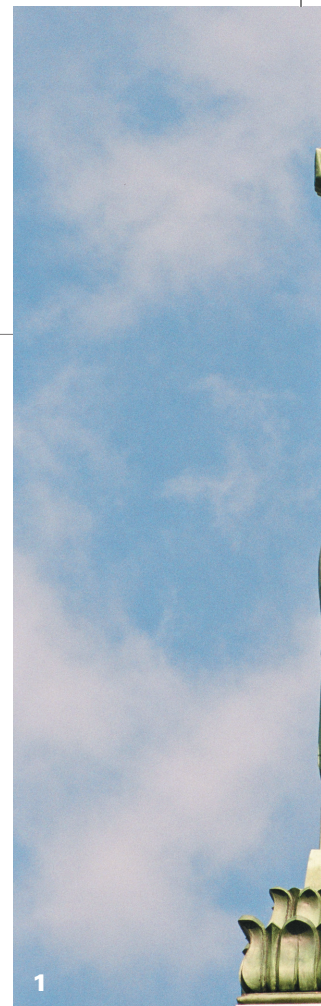
Inside St. John’s, begun in 1234 when the city was a mere three decades old, a bit more grandeur, aimed to rally folks to Catholic glories. Didn’t work. Come the Reformation, it was rented out as a stable. Today, it’s fitted with more than former glory, including stained glass of blinding beauty and another mammoth organ.

Make your way to St. Peter’s, another foursquare brick facade supporting a patina-softened copper spire. A twist of steps transports you to the pinnacle, to gain a 360-view of the city spread below: over there, the obelisk-like Freedom Monument, an inspiring symbol to this nation, constantly suppressed by superpowers. (In fact, the Soviets forbade gatherings around it, not to mention the floral tributes that flourish today.) Spy the two hotels known as headquarters of the hated KGB police. Ooh, there’s the Opera House, where tonight’s bill is Puccini. That ugly one was dubbed Stalin’s Wedding Cake.

And those lumps that look like airplane hangars? Well, that’s what they were—zeppelin hangars, actually, now housing the city’s vibrant Central Market. It’s five hangars’ worth of yummy eats: one for fish; one for meat; one for fruits and veggies; another for cheese; and finally, a pastry mecca—all overseen by babushkas who gladly offer samples. Try the sauerkraut juice, a popular hangover cure, or the birch sap, which tastes a bit like Sprite.

Riga’s architectural treasury extends well beyond bricks and hangars: It’s revered as a treasury of Art Nouveau. Along Alberta Street, each deliciously gorgeous facade vies with its neighbor—Amazonian stone women upholding curvy balconies, pillars dripping sculpted flora, windows winking under flowing plaster eyebrows. Here, the Art Nouveau Museum, poster child for the stylish movement, is actually the former apartment of an up-and-comer whose svelte furnishings are still in place to ogle, from stunning stained glass windows to divine divans. Back in the town center is more Art Nouveau everywhere you cast your eye.

There are also the Three Brothers, a trio of 15th-Century mansions with Dutch-style step roofs; the dainty brick House of the Blackheads, a guild house from the Middle Ages; and shadowing it, a grim box of Soviet design, now housing, ironically, the Occupations Museum. The latter remembers, through photographs and news accounts, events like the Year of Terror, 1941, when 8,000





1 Freedom Monument. Photo Courtesy of Liveriga.com • 2 Old Town Livu Square. Photo Courtesy of Liveriga.com • 3 Town Hall Square. Photo Courtesy of Liveriga.com • 4 Riga by Night. Photo Courtesy of Liveriga.com 5 Food serves at Padaste Manor. Photo Courtesy of Padaster Manor • 6 Bridge at night. Photo Courtesy of Liveriga.com • 7 Old Town. Photo Courtesy of Liveriga.com



were arrested; the Terror of Cheka, with torture, prison, and 15,000 deportations, also in 1941; the Holocaust, the KGB, and its gulags; and the National Reawakening, a happy ending to the sad tale.

Backstreets flaunt the charming wooden cottages of the middle class of 200 years ago. Once-grimy warehouses have been converted to artists' strongholds in the reclaimed Spikerei Creative Quarter. Even my hotel, the Gutenbergs, held relics of the past, including a what-the-heck-is-this-doing-here mill wheel dominating my fourth-floor garret. Climb to the open-air rooftop café for dinner, with a view of all those church spires (I counted 15) glinting in the summer sunset, while dining on dilled salmon, and eavesdropping on the Russian Mafia (my guess) at the next table.

Or head back to Cathedral Square with its sea of umbrella tables, or the nearby Blue Cow tavern for a heaven-sent meal of Latvian comfort food—first, borscht, silky with sour cream, or a pleasantly biting sorrel soup, then farm-raised chicken (or choose pork hocks with sauerkraut, or stewed rabbit).

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Centrum Gay Hotel is across the street from XXL and a gay sauna, in the Art Nouveau District



[PRIDE AND BEYOND]

Now that Pride has been over for a couple of weeks, and the weather is holding up and heating up, don't forget about the opportunities you have to hook up with our local sports teams. For some reason, after Pride, everyone kind of gradually forgets that it ever happened—and maybe some with good reason! Let's hope you hang onto some of those fliers, buttons, and stickers, and get involved in the many sporting and leisure groups here in the Cities.

[PRIDE AND BEYOND]



As usual, the Volleyball team had their annual Pride Tournament. If all those sweaty guys make you wish you could be a part of the action, here's how you get there. If you're a beginning player, or otherwise new to the game, you can learn all the basic skills at open gym times Tuesdays, 6:30-9 PM. Got the basics down, and ready to get down and dirty? Then Monday and Thursday nights are for you. E-mail <glass_vb@hotmail.com> for details.

After the volleyball boys cleared out on Sunday, the Mayhem rugby team had probably their most successful exhibition match in years at Loring Park. There was a quite a crowd as the rugby team played several short matches Sunday afternoon versus the St. Paul Pigs rugby club, a local straight team.

Several of their guys were kind enough to

take on the Mayhem in 7s matches, which are 7-minute halves, with 7 players on each side. The Mayhem decided to showcase their new 7s division players, which is a different style of rugby from the typical 15-per-side style of rugby played in the fall and spring.

Through the summer, 7s play will continue, as will touch-rugby for beginners and those interested in getting into the game in the fall.

Check out <www.mayhemrhc.com> as details roll out for the rest of the summer and fall.

[STRAIGHT PLAYERS ON GAY TEAMS]

Recently, a judge recommended that the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA) be allowed to keep its rule that limits the number of nongay players. It stems from a lawsuit filed by three men who say they were disqualified after a 2008 NAGAAA championship game for being nongay.

This issue is one that all local "gay" teams struggle with. At which point do you stop calling yourself a gay team before you are viewed as "stacking" your team with straight or even bisexual people?

I should say that I have played on the local gay Mayhem rugby team for nearly seven years, and am currently club president. Having just invited a straight team to play against us at, of all events, a Gay Pride match, I

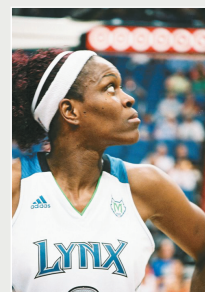
thought this issue particularly compelling.

I have experienced firsthand the infighting that occurs as an organization starts to question if it has "too many" nongay players. Rugby, being a brutal sport, can turn off a lot of gay men. Recruiting for the rugby team means going to straight players just to survive.

Does this mean the gay rugby team, or any similar team, should stop calling itself a gay team? Does doing so not marginalize its straight players? Sometimes, I think so on both counts. Should any so-called "gay" sports team actively recruit straight players? I think maybe not—sometimes.

NAGAAA has a rule about how many nongay men can be on a team, while most gay sports teams probably don't. Perhaps more do than we realize.

At some point, those organizations have to ask themselves if they want to be "that" group, which, as it tries to fight discrimination by its own existence, becomes one that must discriminate to maintain its existence. □



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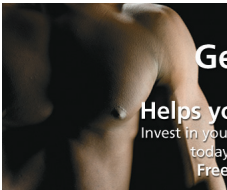
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HELTZER & HOUGHTALING

Rebecca Heltzer and Melissa Houghtaling recently opened their new law firm, Heltzer & Houghtaling. Heltzer's niche is dissolution of same-sex relationships, general litigation, real estate, and other property disputes. Houghtaling primarily practices in family law, probate, and estate planning.

Heltzer says, "We're not able to access the marriage statute, because they don't give us gay marriage in Minnesota. There are a whole bunch of tools that a person could use, and I'm probably more familiar with those than a lot of people in town. Really, what it comes down to is real estate disputes—their biggest asset is usually the house."

While ending a long-term relationship is always going to be a difficult time, Heltzer tries to facilitate the best possible outcome for her clients.

"When people get into their relationships, they respect and love each other," Heltzer explains. "When you're transitioning and you're changing, it's emotionally extremely difficult, and every circumstance is different. But try to be as positive as possible, and focus on the end—on what makes most sense economically—because you don't want to spend too much money on me."

Litigation can be expensive, depending on the complexity of a client's circumstances, but Heltzer takes great care to make sure her clients are comfortable about

their choices and the costs associated with them. Furthermore, even if a case sounds simple, a visit to a lawyer might be well worth the money for the peace of mind he or she is able to provide.

Many attorneys throughout the Twin Cities practice family law, and it is important that a lawyer's personality be compatible with his or her clients. Therefore, Houghtaling would rather refer a client to a different attorney than have an ineffective attorney-client relationship.

However, Houghtaling notes, "One thing that I can offer people, particularly GLBT couples, is an understanding and sensitivity to people's sexual orientation, and the different relationships that individuals can form in their lives, not only as an out lesbian attorney myself, but as someone who has a number of people in my family who are GLBT, and have experience in what it can feel like to go to someone for alternative-planning needs."

Houghtaling's most recent project is a book for Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, *Estate Planning for Non-Traditional Families*. She teaches family law at Inver Hills Community College. □

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Why Isn't Anyone Stalking Me?

I WAS having a quiet morning, sipping my coffee, when I heard my e-mail box ding with alarm. Actually, it was just a regular e-mail “ding,” but it sounded alarming to me. Maybe it was alarming because my girlfriend had declared a veil of silence when we woke, so I was forbidden from speaking, or making any other Jennifer-related noise (i.e., humming, slamming cabinets, crying out in pain, etc.).

My girlfriend has gotten into the habit of shushing me in the mornings. Her official position is that she needs quiet in order to complete work assignments. But I know it's just that my incessant chatting and giggling annoy the hell out of her.

The other day she told me, “You are really sexy. But then, you open your mouth and destroy it.”

Anyway, there I was, trying to keep quiet (which is very hard for me), when I heard my e-mail ding the announcement that a message had just arrived in my in-box. I immediately clicked into my account, and found this disturbing message: “Wendy W. is searching your name on the Internet.”

The only Wendy W. I know was sitting directly across from me, typing frantically on her keyboard.

“Wendy, are you stalking me?” I asked.

“What fool thing are you blathering about

now?” she responded, not bothering to look up from her computer.

“The Internet says that you're stalking me. Is it true?” I asked with growing excitement. “Is that why you don't want me to speak? Because you want me to remain a mystery to you, and, thus, more fun to stalk?”

Wendy slammed her computer shut, sighed heavily, and explained that she had indeed searched my name on Google, only to find my home address, because she needed to forward her mail.

“Did you need my address in order to stalk me?” I asked, hopefully.

“Listen, you idiot. I sleep next to you. If I wanted to stalk you, I'd just roll over, and stare at the back of your head.” With that, she went back to work.

Before I get into my despair upon learning that I was not being stalked, let's touch on the creepy fact that the Internet has taken to writing me directly with unsettling information. I'm not sure why it cares that people are searching for my name, and feels the need to inform me of this activity.

The Internet has become that weird, clingy girl you met shortly after graduating college—the one who tried to win your friendship by snooping on your love interests, and delighting in filling you in on all the

bad stuff she uncovered.

Why can't the Internet simply mind its own business, and get its own life instead of usurping mine?

The most distressing thing about this episode was discovering that I wasn't being stalked.

Before the Internet started sending me notices on who was searching for me, I could at least fantasize that all my exes—not to mention the cute girl I made eye contact with on the train and a certain blonde TV newscaster—were obsessively seeking out info on me daily.

Now, thanks to these unwelcome updates, I've learned that the only people searching for me are my girlfriend, a couple of childhood friends, my mom, and a somewhat mysterious creature named Mittens.

I miss life before the Internet, when you could easily suspend disbelief, and pump up your self-esteem by dreaming about the troops of admirers scrambling for a shred of precious information about you.

The Internet has crushed those dreams, and, to add insult to injury, feels compelled to notify you on a daily basis how few people can be bothered to stalk you. ■

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Dear Ms. Behavior:

I played poker with friends recently.

My friend, Randi, ran out of money, so we made a deal. I gave her cash, with the agreement that if she won, we'd split the pot 50/50.

When we won the large pot, I half-jokingly said that instead of taking my share of the pot, I'd like to buy the right to date her ex-girlfriend, Susie. Randi eagerly agreed.

I repeatedly asked if that was really OK. Randi reassured me that she had no feelings about my dating her ex (from a few years ago).

So, I called Susie the next day, and now, we've been dating for a few months. However, once Randi started seeing us together, she had "unexpected feelings."

Randi has called several times, and asked me to stop dating Susie. She even offered to give me the poker money instead. However, I really like Susie, and don't want to stop dating her.

Randi seems to feel that my long-term friendship with her should matter more than my new (but intense) feelings for Susie. I feel that I "won" the right to date Susie, and it's not fair for Randi to demand that I stop.

Who's right?

Also, I'm worried about Susie finding out about the poker game.

Is it dishonest to keep it from her?

—FAIR PLAYER

Dear Fair Player:

Since there were apparently multiple witnesses to the "sale" of Susie at the poker game (who might some day spill the beans), you should tell the story of how she was sold to you—like a pig at a county fair.

Then, you won't have to wonder how she'll react to hearing the news: insulted to have been so readily sold, or perhaps flattered that you purchased her.

Despite your having done your due dili-

gence—i.e., lesbian "processing" about the deal and any potential feelings—your poor friend, Randi, has seller's remorse.

Is that your problem?

Not really. Let's say that Susie *had* been a pig that you purchased from Randi at a County Fair. Randi couldn't demand that you return the pig, just because she experienced feelings of jealousy upon seeing the two of you together.

Because Susie and Randi were not even a couple anymore, when you purchased the right to date Susie, she was abstract commodity—more of a stock certificate for a pig than an actual pig.

Your dilemma isn't much of one. If your friendship with Randi was the most important part of this equation, you would have weighted it differently when you posed the question, e.g., "What can I do to save this important relationship," rather than, "I really like Susie, and don't want to stop dating



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her,” and, “I ‘won’ the right to date Susie, and it’s not fair for Randi to demand that I stop.”

Dear Ms. Behavior:

My boyfriend, Josh, is extremely sociable, and I’m not.

His large network of friends and family members descends upon us for weeks at a time, without any regard for how it affects us (or, mainly, me).

We live in a resort area, so it’s intense in the summer. I have said that I don’t enjoy having visitors so often, or all at once, but Josh doesn’t seem to care.

I’m not just being weird or controlling. His friends totally take over the house, to the point where I’ve slept in the attic just to keep my sanity.

Also, his ex-boyfriend has come with his partner, two kids, and a dog. At various times, they have given us lice, fleas, and stomach viruses.

I don’t know how to negotiate this with Josh. What would you suggest?

—I’M NOT REALLY ANTISOCIAL, AM I?

Dear I’m Not Really Antisocial, Am I?:

Make sure that you benefit in some way each time you agree to have visitors, and set some guidelines about what’s acceptable. Write those guidelines down, so that they’re easy to refer to when necessary.

Here are some examples for a written agreement:

- (1) The number of visitors shall not exceed the number of available beds. No sleeping on the floor or coffee table.
- (2) No visit may exceed three days.
- (3) For every week of visitors, there shall be a visitor-free week.
- (4) Maternal visits cause extra stress. For any maternal visit exceeding three days, that mother’s son needs to take out the garbage for six months.
- (5) If any visitors cause illness, parasites, or infestation, the person who invited the infested visitors must mow the lawn (urban dwellers may replace this with another unpleasant chore, and lesbians may replace it with cleaning out the cat box) for the rest of

his natural life. □

© 2011 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior’s Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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I live with regret. It's a fleeting feeling for me. It comes in times when I remember the night my mother died (what if we'd called the ambulance earlier?), or when I relive the sting of my ex's infidelity (what if I'd left the bar a few minutes earlier the night we met?).

Would the outcomes have changed? Would my mother still be alive? Would I never have known the pain my ex caused?

We toss and turn at night thinking of such things, and though some of you might say you live without regret, you know the feeling.

What makes regret so unbearable isn't that we regret doing what we did (or didn't do). What we really regret is the *outcome* of our action (or inaction), which means sometimes, we regret things we weren't responsible for.

Translation: We torture ourselves not only with the regret of what we did, but also with the nagging unknown—*would the outcome have changed anyway?*

The most extreme example to showcase this wicked phenomenon is Dr. William Petit. His story is the ultimate family horror. In 2007, his wife, Jennifer, and daughters, Hayley and Michaela, were brutally massacred

in their suburban Connecticut home, victims of a sadistic home invasion.

Hayley was found at the top of the stairs. She'd been tied to her bed, raped, and soaked with gasoline before she was set aflame. She'd managed to escape her binds, but the fire proved fatal, and her struggle to freedom ended just outside her bedroom. She was 17. Jennifer and Michaela suffered similar fates.

Bill, on the other hand, survived. Left for dead by Steven Hayes and Josh Komisarjevsky, he lost seven pints of blood after being struck with a baseball bat, and restrained in his basement. He managed to free himself, and make it to a neighbor's house.

Bill lives with regret. Any father would, I suppose. He, the protector, the provider, was unable to save his family. What more could he have done? What if they'd been on vacation that night? What if...?

So many questions, so many scenarios playing over and over again. The nagging unknown. The outcome...the horrifying outcome.

The truth, of course, is that it wasn't in Bill's power to change what was going to happen. But that doesn't matter. Regret

shows no sign of rationality.

Steven will die for his involvement in the Petit family murders. Josh's trial starts this year. Little solace for Bill. Anguish, not justice, is his companion.

During the trial, the tables turn somewhat. Jurors and the media look to the defendants for signs of another kind of regret: remorse.

This intrigues me. Do the killers feel regret? Yes, probably—for getting caught. Remorse—now there's an interesting subject. It is perhaps the ultimate punishment. As I see it, remorse is the self-inflicted torture by a person for affecting another the way he did. Unlike the irrationality of Bill's regret, regret in the form of remorse is absolutely appropriate.

I suppose if you take anything from this, it's that when you are alone at night, trying to overcome that queasy guilt in the pit of your stomach, think about where it's coming from: a place of illogical self-blame, or true remorse.

If what you feel is guilt over an outcome you may or may not have influenced, think of Bill Petit: the man who keeps going. It is within all of us to overcome. It just takes courage—and inspiration.

We all have these instances in our lives: times that can kill us or strengthen us. They seem to pale in comparison with the Petit heartbreak, but they are real for us nonetheless. When faced with them, let us choose to rise. ▣

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